

THE CRISIS.

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NUMBER LXIX. *To be continued Weekly,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, May 11, 1776. [Price Two-pence Halfpenny]

A Serious Warning to Great Britain, addressed

TO THE KING.

May it please your Majesty,



If we examine the history of all nations that ever became famous for their power and greatness, and trace them to their dissolution, we shall find that a general corruption and depravity always prevailed and preceded their destruction. This great truth is particularly taught in the writings of the old testament, which Bishop Atterbury (in his Sermon intitled the wisdom of providence manifested in the revolutions of government, preached before the House of Commons the 29th of May 1710) says, is so full in what regards societies or civil bodies of men, "that there is no need of repeating lessons there so often inculcated, nor no room for improving upon them, which is the reason so little is said in relation to them in the gospel; And that the various and strange necessities the Jews underwent from their first erection into a people down to their final excision, is so punctually registered and transmitted to us, that we might in them as in the glass of Providence distinctly see the several ways and methods of God's dealing with

“ with great states and kingdoms and be fully instructed in the rules
 “ of his raising or depressing, prospering or punishing them by the
 “ interposition of a divine power as visible almost as the virtues or
 “ vices that occasioned it.

The Israelites a stiff naked and rebellious though chosen people, were not put in possession of the land of Canaan for their own righteousness or superior Virtue and merit above all other nations, but because of the great wickedness and impiety of the native inhabitants who had then compleated the measure of their iniquity, and were ripe for destruction ; the Israelites in their turn, from the same causes experienced the same effects.

This being the usual method of the Almighty dealing with great states and kingdoms, whereby he sheweth himself to be a God that judgeth the earth ; and when it is evident that a general corruption and depravity prevails, that laying house to house, and field to field till there is no place for the poor ; pride, covetousness, dissipation of all kinds, oaths, * and adultery and all other vices that brought ruin and desolation even upon the Jewish state, have deluged the land, and prevailed all ranks and degrees of people ; ought not the nation in general, and the rulers in particular seriously attend to such calamitous signs of the times and by a proper reformation endeavour to avert the wrath of heaven from being further poured out upon us.

So long ago as the year 1709 DEAN SWIFT published a pamphlet called, *a project for the advancement of religion and the reformation of manners*, In which he says, “ It is in the power of the prince to make piety and virtue become the fashion of the age, if at the same time he would make them necessary qualifications for favour and preferment, by making it every mans interest and honour, to cultivate religion and virtue, by making vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to preferment or pretensions.” Having described the methods by which such a desirable event might be brought about, he adds,

* Custom House and Excise laws, and the corrupt practices at elections for members of parliament, have carried perjury with them throughout the kingdom ; and children of the lower class of people, from the example of their parents, are taught to lisp out oaths and curses before they can speak plain.

And

“ And that some effectual attempt should be made towards such a reformation is perhaps more necessary than people commonly apprehend, because the ruin of a state is generally preceded by an universal degeneracy of manners and contempt of religion which is entirely our care at present ; and near the conclusion he writes thus, “ The present queen is a princess of as many great virtues as ever filled a throne. How would it brighten her character to the present and future ages if she would exert her utmost authority, to infil some share of those virtues into her people, which they are too degenerate to learn only from her example ? and be it spoken with all veneration possible, for so excellent a sovereign, her best endeavours in this most weighty affair, are a most important part of her duty, as well as of her interest and her honour.

I believe if the dean was now living, he would say, that our iniquities were greatly increased, and that it was so much the more the duty of rulers, to set about a reformation at this time than it was then. And that men fearing God and hating covetousness ought to be the only counsellors to the king : and promoting religion and virtue the principal employment of the prince. From such men and such endeavours, we expect the favour of heaven, without which the greatest fleets and armies are vain. For notwithstanding the omnipotence of parliament, neither their fleets nor their armies can advance one foot further than the omnipotent himself will give them leave. For instance, the proud Sinacherib *Isaiah* 37, v. 24, “ talks big, he had already put Jerusalem into consternation, and boasted of greater mischiefs he intended ; But he that fits in heaven, laughs at him, and the great Jehovah derides the little talking insect, assures the prophet that beyond such a field he shall not step, and as he saith, he doth.----When Maxentius had filled Rome with murders, and the people feared not only greater injuries to their persons, but a total desolation, the almighty sets bounds to his brutish courage, and sends the great Constantine to remove him, and with him the yoke he had laid on the trembling people.----Selimus the Turk, in the year 1569, set out from Constantinople with Twenty-five thousand horse, and three thousand janizaries and joins an army of the Precopine Tartars, consisting of eighty thousand horse more, besides a navy at sea of a hundred and fifty gallies manned and provided with suitable ammunition, to invade the kingdom of Astracan, he had already swallowed the empire in his hopes, distributed the

“ the

" the various provinces to his Bashaws, and consulted how to govern
 " the kingdom conquered already in imagination, its true the inha-
 " bitants of Astracan were in great confusion, but the mighty God,
 " who fits up one and pulls down another, comes in, dashes all the
 " swelling hopes of the haughty Sultan, and beyond expectation all
 " that mighty army pines and dwindleth away on their march, some
 " of them come as far as Azeph, and of that vast multitude only two
 " thousand returned to Constantinople.

The Spanish Armada in the famous year 1588, is another instance of the controuling power of the almighty, mentioned with the foregoing, in an old sermon on the 30th of January now in my possession. And doubtless our rulers are arrived at that degree of infidelity the jews were, who said, the Lord hath forsaken the earth, the Lord feeth us not. * They must acknowledge an over ruling providence, that hath hitherto frustrated their designs against America. Because they were full of blood and destruction, not contrived in his fear, and therefore unsupported by his favour.

Above eight years ago I wrote to your majesty, and in that letter I thought it my duty to say in the words of the prophet. That I believe great was the anger and the wrath of the lord against this people ¶ which now begins to appear to our very great confusion, and except we turn to him that smiteth us we shall smart under still severer judgments. Though the signs of the times, and the great iniquity of the band might alone justly warrant such belief, I have more particular reasons for it, derived from a most wonderful surprizing appearance I saw in the air, an account of which I sent to the late Archbishop of Canterbury, the 17th of September, 1767, (the day the Duke of York died,) as follows.

The Almighty is unchangeable, and unless we amend our ways
 " and doings, we can have no reason to expect but he will as cer-
 " tainly punish us for our vices, as he did the nations of old. Nay,
 " we may justly now say, he has begun to lay his hand upon us, for
 " we have felt some severe tokens of an angry providence ; Nothing
 " of late has prospered in our hands, but even the very nature of
 " things has been inverted ! of which I gave several instances, and

" then thus proceeded to relate what I had seen.---On the 4th of September between five and six o'clock in the evening, walking in the City Road, near Islington, I saw, what I believe your grace will acknowledge to be a very uncommon appearance in the air, looking up I was particularly struck with a large blue cloud, like a mountain, the sides and top of which were covered with a most resplendent border resembling silver lace, but far exceeding it in brightness and many little lighter blue coloured clouds, with the same kind of border, detached from the great one, formed the most beautiful sight that was ever seen by mortal eyes. I stood still near a quarter of an hour, if not more, to survey this splendid appearance, in which time I saw, as plain as I now see this paper I am writing upon, on the top of the great blue cloud, the likeness of the hind part of a large white horse, and the form of a man with a plume upon his head riding upon it. Soon after the figure of a lion made its appearance on the north side, which I attentively surveyed for some time, and said to myself a lion in the air, what can this mean! and turning my eyes to the south, in a white cloud at a distance from the blue one, I beheld the figure of a man with all the marks of death in his face, stretched out on his back, his arms laying extended close by his side, a woman standing at his feet, leaning towards him, with her arms stretched out as if inclined to help him. This appearance remained I believe five minutes in full proportion and then gradually sunk away; the shining border I had before seen, disappeared and nothing but common clouds remained. The great author and governor of the universe does nothing in vain, nor for no purpose; and in times like these, when we see the nature of things inverted on earth, and uncommon appearances in the air, ought they not to awaken our attention, and incline us to consider our ways and be wise.

Two copies of the above, I sent to your majesty, one the 1st of November, 1767, the other the 11th of January, 1770, and it was published in the Whisperer the 9th of June 1770, and in the Ledger the 10th of August 1774. The colour of the lion was red as blood, which I at that time thought unnatural, but it then struck me no otherways than as a mark that the dying person was of the royal family, which was the case, for according to the Gazette it was the day after the severity of the Duke of York's illness began, that this extraordinary sight appeared, in which it was remarkable, that there were three signs

signs, the last of which, was at that very time fulfilling; and the second is now accomplished; for, whether those sanguinary degrees, which have filled America with blood, took their rise from a man or men from the North, or Lord North himself, I appeal to your majesty if the wit of men or angels, could devise a more comprehensive striking emblem of the present times than a blood red lion issuing from the North.

Only one sign now remains to be fulfilled, which appears to me to have a very fatal meaning both to king and people, particularly to the royal family, the accomplishment of which, as it is our duty, it will be our greatest interest and happiness, by a speedy reformation, to prevent.

As the preservation of the house of Hanover upon the throne and saving Great Britain from the horrors of internal war, are not unworthy of the particular interposition of providence, I would flatter myself the aforementioned supernatural appearance was sent from above, to give the nation warning of the impending danger, that by a suitable conduct it might be averted.

Whether your majesty and the people will take warning or not, I have done what I apprehend to be my duty, and leave the event to the sovereign disposer of all things, who bringeth low and liftest up; whose works are all truth and his ways judgment and those that walk in pride he is able to abase---Daniel 4. v. 34.

I am, may it please your majesty,

Cottons Wharf, South-wark,
May 11, 1776.

Your majest's most faithful subject,
William Stewardson.

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